

DETAILED ACTION

1. The Amendment filed by Applicant on 02/16/2010 has been entered.

Response to Amendment/Arguments

2. Applicant's amendment and arguments filed on 06/18/2009 have been fully considered and they are found persuasive.

3. The rejection of claims 1-28, 43 and 45-53 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Lewis et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,852,816 (hereinafter "Lewis" and PCT Pub. No. WO02/28929 published 11 APR 2002) is withdrawn.

Allowable Subject Matter/Reasons for Allowance

4. Claims 2-10, 12-15, 17-20, 23-28, 43 and 45-55 are allowed.

5. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The closest prior art located or identified by the Examiner is Lewis. Lewis teaches a composition comprising a solvent block copolymer, including A-B-A block copolymers, comprising a core and terminal block wherein the core block comprises zwitterionic pendant groups having a structure in

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accordance with Y-B-X as claimed. See Lewis, Abstract; col. 2, line 60 through col. 4, line 51; col. 7, lines 12-28; col. 10, line 54 through col. 11, line 45. Lewis further teaches substituents and compounds of general formula VIII. See col. 5, line 24 through col. 6, line 8. The current invention differs from Lewis in that the current invention requires a method that uses a stimulus to change a liquid into a gel and the ABA block copolymer has a degree of polymerization of about 150 to 400.

6. As of the date of this Notice of Allowability, the Examiner has not located or identified any reference that can be used singularly or in combination with another reference including Lewis to render the present invention anticipated or obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art.

7. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Robert D. Harlan whose telephone number is (571) 272-1102. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Thu, 10 AM - 8 PM.

9. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David W. Wu can be reached on (571) 273-1114. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

10. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or

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access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199

(IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Robert D. Harlan/
Primary Examiner
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